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English ab initio – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais ab initio – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés ab initio – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

7 May 2026 / 7 mai 2026 / 7 de mayo de 2026

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to students

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux élèves

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'avoir reçu l'autorisation de le faire.
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para el alumnado

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

Stories from our lives



1 Snoqualmie waterfall, by Jennifer Alvarado

Have you ever visited the Snoqualmie waterfall? It is amazing! During my last vacation, my family and I went to Snoqualmie Falls. I saw a strong stream of water falling with a lot of trees on both sides, and I saw many people taking pictures. I was cold because the waterfall was powerful, forcing its strong mist on us. It was so rainy that day that we were getting all wet. I thought we ought to buy some hot coffee.

2 Living near the Pacific, by Mie Ohno

Do you have a place where you dream of returning for a visit? For me, that place is the Pacific Ocean. When I see the blue sky, blue ocean and whitecaps*, I feel so relaxed that I prefer to stay there all day long. I especially like to hear the sound of the waves because it is like my mother's voice to me. When I get angry, the sound calmly soothes me, and when I feel sad, the sound gently comforts me.

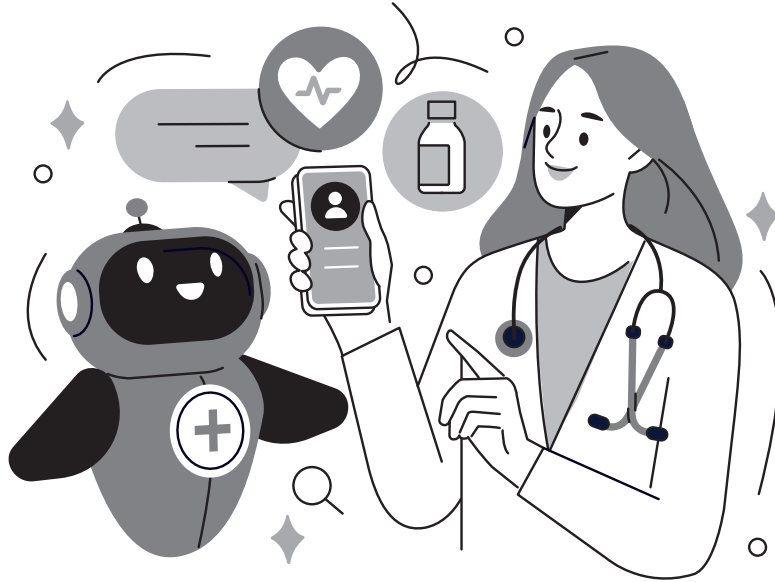
3 My day at a mountain, by Hamidriza Khosravi

Mountains are one of the places I like to spend my time because I enjoy hiking. I get excited when I go to the mountains. There I enjoy hearing the sound of my steps breaking the silence, which makes me feel pleasant and uplifted. I climb and climb with just my own ability, and when I get to the right state of mind, I look down. The combination of silence and fatigue is pleasurable for me.

* whitecaps: waves that are white at their tops

Text B

Doctors and AI (artificial intelligence): Working together for a healthier future



[– 10 –]

Have you ever gone to a doctor's office or the hospital emergency department and spent a lot of time in the waiting room before seeing the doctor? Wait times can be a major problem, because they can discourage people from getting the medical care they need—whether they are sick and require treatment or just due for regular checkups or vaccines. Either way, people's health can suffer.

[– 11 –]

AI systems can help to make health facilities more efficient by analyzing data such as the length of visits, the number of doctors and nurses available, the number of exam rooms, availability of equipment, and more. This can shorten wait times, ensure that the people who are the sickest see doctors first and even save the facilities money.

[– 12 –]

One children's hospital in Toronto, Canada, is testing out an AI tool that can automatically order common medical tests based on patients' symptoms—right after they arrive at the hospital and before they even see a doctor. The test results are often ready when they do get in to see the doctor, which could shorten the overall time spent in the emergency department by two to three hours. In the future, maybe none of us will have to wait!

[– 13 –]

While AI is super helpful, it is important to remember that it is still a tool. Many people find these developments exciting and inspiring, but it can also raise some worries. Remember that scientists are continually working to make AI better, safer and more helpful, so that doctors and AI can help all people be as healthy as possible.

Text C

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